



## FACT SHEET

### QUICK FACTS

- Founded in March 1971
- 2011 marks the CBC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- There are 3 ranking members of Full Committees: Conyers (Judiciary), Thompson (Homeland Security, Johnson (Science, Space, and Technology), and Cummings (Oversight and Government Reform)
- Assistant Democratic Leader, Jim Clyburn is a member and past Chairman of the CBC
- CBC Leadership includes:
  - Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Chairman
  - Del. Donna Christian Christensen, First Vice Chair
  - Rep. GK Butterfield, Second Vice Chair
  - Rep. Yvette Clarke, Secretary
  - Rep. André Carson, Whip
- Top policy priorities for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress: Economy, Education, and Healthcare
- Three Black Republicans have joined the CBC in its 40-year history (Rep. Gary Franks, Del. Melvin Evans and Rep. Allen West).

### HISTORY



A legislative voice for black Americans, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) traces its roots to an organization known as the Democratic Select Committee (DSC). Founded in 1969, the DSC was formed in order to facilitate communication among black representatives and with the congressional leadership in the House. The Congressional Black Caucus formally introduced itself to Congress on March 30, 1971. On this historic date, Congressman Charles Diggs, Jr. (D-MI) presented "The Statement to the President of the United States" by the Congressional Black Caucus. On March 25, 1971, the CBC delivered the statement to President Richard Nixon during a formal meeting with the president. The statement included more than sixty

recommendations for executive action on a range of issues concerning black America. In his presentation of the Caucus' statement, Representative Diggs recognized the thirteen founding members and declared their issues and concerns to be non-partisan. With this statement, the Congressional Black Caucus hoped to draw the attention of Democratic and Republican leadership in Congress, as well as the public, to the concerns of black Americans. It was through this statement that the CBC began its long history of advocacy for the concerns of the African-American community.

Since its inception in 1971, the CBC has introduced and sponsored legislation on a range of issues, including voting rights, employment, education, health care and foreign policy. Making their legislative agenda known to the White House and in Congress, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus have been able to advance black political interests in the United States for almost forty years.

Founding members were Representatives Shirley Chisholm, William Clay, George Collins, John Conyers, Ronald Dellums, Charles Diggs, Augustus Hawkins, Ralph Metcalfe, Parren Mitchell, Robert Nix, Charles Rangel, Louis Stokes, and D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy.

### FOUNDING MEMBERS



**Shirley A. Chisholm**  
(November 30, 1924 – January 1, 2005)



**Walter E. Fauntroy**  
(February 6, 1933 - )



**Robert N.C. Nix, Sr.**  
(August 9, 1905 – June 22, 1987)



**Charles B. Rangel**  
(June 11, 1930 - )



**Parren J. Mitchell**  
(April 29, 1922 – May 28, 2007)



**Louis Stokes**  
(February 23, 1925 - )



**Augustus F. Hawkins**  
(August 31, 1907 – November 10, 2007)



**Ronald V. Dellums**  
(November 24, 1935 - )



**George W. Collins**  
(March 5, 1925 – December 8, 1972)

**Ralph H. Metcalfe**  
(May 30, 1910 – October 10, 1978)



**Charles C. Diggs, Jr.**  
(December 2, 1922 – August 24, 1998)



**John Conyers, Jr.**  
(May 16, 1929 - )



**William L. Clay, Sr.**  
(April 30, 1931 - )

Source: African American Voices in Congress, <http://www.avoiceline.org/cbc/bios.html>

### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CHAIRS, 1971–PRESENT

Member Name	Congress/Session	Years of Service
Charles Coles Diggs, Jr.	92nd–1st Session	1971–1972
Louis Stokes	92nd–2nd Session	1972–1973
Louis Stokes	93rd–1st Session	1973–1974
<u>Charles B. Rangel</u>	93rd–2nd Session	1974–1975
<u>Charles B. Rangel</u>	94th–1st Session	1975–1976
<u>Yvonne Brathwaite Burke</u>	94th–2nd Session	1976–1977
<u>Parren James Mitchell</u>	95th	1977–1979
<u>Cardiss Collins</u>	96th	1979–1981
<u>Walter Edward Fauntroy</u>	97th	1981–1983
<u>Julian Carey Dixon</u>	98th	1983–1985
<u>George Thomas (Mickey) Leland</u>	99th	1985–1987
<u>Mervyn Malcolm Dymally</u>	100th	1987–1989
<u>Ronald V. Dellums</u>	101st	1989–1991
<u>Edolphus Towns</u>	102nd	1991–1993
<u>Kweisi Mfume</u>	103rd	1993–1995
<u>Donald M. Payne</u>	104th	1995–1997
<u>Maxine Waters</u>	105th	1997–1999
<u>James E. Clyburn</u>	106th	1999–2001
<u>Eddie Bernice Johnson</u>	107th	2001–2003
<u>Elijah E. Cummings</u>	108th	2003–2005

Member Name	Congress/Session	Years of Service
<u>Melvin L. Watt</u>	109th	2005–2007
<u>Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick</u>	110th	2007–2009
<u>Barbara Lee</u>	111th	2009–Present

Source: Black Americans in Congress, <http://baic.house.gov/historical-data/congressional-black-caucus-chairs.html>



## 112<sup>TH</sup> CBC MEMBERSHIP ROSTER (BY SENIORITY)

### House of Representatives

Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) – Dean  
 Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY)  
 Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-NY)  
 Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)  
 Rep. Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)  
 Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)  
 Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)  
 Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA)  
 Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL)  
 Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC)  
 Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)  
 Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)  
 Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-IL)  
 Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-VA)  
 Rep. Melvin L. Watt (D-NC)  
 Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)  
 Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)  
 Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)  
 Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)  
 Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD)  
 Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI)  
 Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)  
 Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY)

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)  
 Rep. William Lacy Clay, Jr. (D-MO)  
 Rep. David Scott (D-GA)  
 Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)  
 Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)  
 Rep. Al Green (D-TX)  
 Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)  
 Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)  
 Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)  
 Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)  
 Rep. Laura Richardson (D-CA)  
 Rep. André Carson (D-IN)  
 Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD)  
 Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH)

*Karen Bass (D-CA)*

*Hansen Clarke (D-MI)*

*Cedric Richmond (D-LA)*

*Terri Sewell (D-AL)*

*Allen West (R-FL)*

*Frederica Wilson (D-FL)*

*Red indicates freshmen members*